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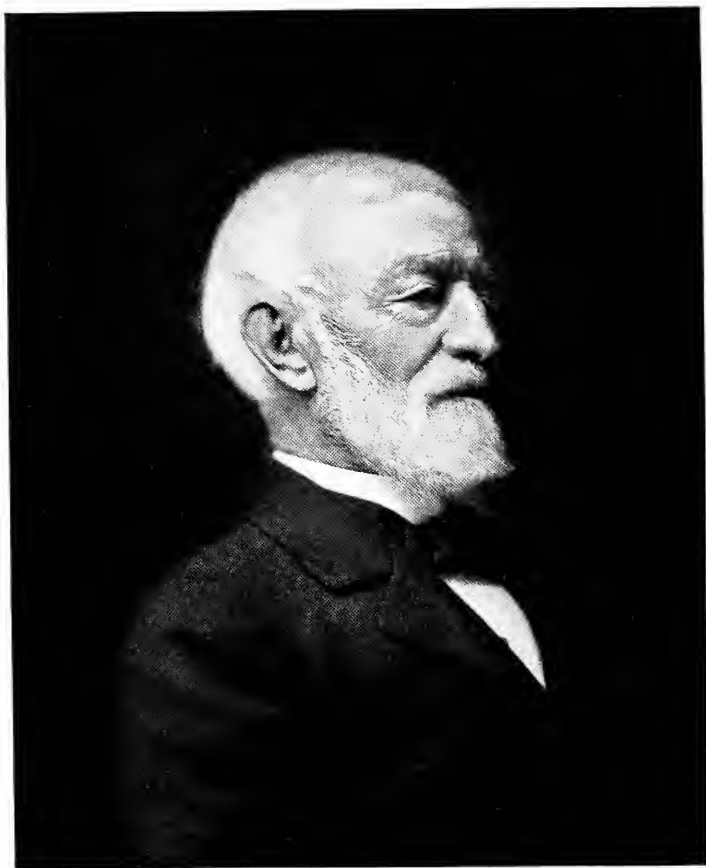





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*J. W. D. Rattibone*







In Memoriam.

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JOHN F. RATHBONE.

Born October 9, 1819. Died March 20, 1901.

Albany, N. Y.



## MEMORIAL SERMON

BY REV. WALLACE BUTTRICK, D.D.,

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH,

ALBANY, N. Y.

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SUNDAY MORNING, *May* 12, 1901.

In compliance with the vote of the church and out of the fulness of a sacred friendship I am to speak to you this morning of the life and more public services of General John F. Rathbone, who was for more than sixty-two years a member of this church.

For our text I take the words found in

*Psalms* 92 : 12-15 (R. V.):

“ The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree :  
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
They that are planted in the house of the Lord  
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.  
They shall still bring forth fruit in old age ;  
They shall be full of sap and green :  
To show that the Lord is upright :  
He is my rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

During the weeks that have passed since our great loss in the death of General Rathbone, and as I have been looking

forward to the duty of this hour, these words, which I have chosen for our text, have recurred to me again and again. Our honored friend, our beloved brother and "father in Israel" was a living demonstration of the truth of the Psalmist's sentiment. His life said to us; "Though our outward man is decaying, our inward man is renewed day by day;" "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." He proved to us that those who have the roots of being in God never fade or grow old: they are ever full of sap and green like the cedars of Lebanon; they are increasingly fruitful in old age, like the date-palm, which bears its largest and most luscious clusters when years are many.

As we of this generation knew him General Rathbone was an old man, for he was born in the second decade of the last century, more than fourscore years ago. Yet, who ever thought of him as old! He lived in the present, not in the past; his step was quick and elastic; his eyes were not dull, but filled with fire; his words were sharp and charged with enthusiasm and command,—his very vocabulary was "up to date;" he was alert to catch and appreciate and enjoy all that was new; he sought the society of the young, who looked upon him as one of themselves; he scouted the idea that former days were better than our own. Yes, he was "full of sap and green," and he was never more fruitful of attainment

in grace and in all active services than during the last splendid years of his long and fruitful life.

This morning we are not here to eulogize, to praise him; we are here to study and to learn. General Rathbone was a remarkable man, a man of unusual gifts and powers, of marked prominence, of extraordinary achievements, and of great service to his day and generation. Let us recall in outline the story of his life, and then let us seek to learn its secret, that we may better understand and appreciate its significance. What was he? What made him what he was?

John F. Rathbone was the third child and second son of Valentine Whitman Rathbone and Nancy Forsyth his wife. He was born in the city of Albany, October 9th, 1819. He was named for the Rev. John Finley, his mother's pastor, then minister of the First Baptist Church in this city. He received his early education from his parents and as a student in the Albany Academy. When he was but a lad his father suffered financial reverses, and, broken in spirit and health, retired to a farm in the vicinity of Rochester. This was about the year 1830. In the spring of 1833 the father died, and soon thereafter our General, still a young and slender boy, engaged himself to a merchant in Rochester where as was generally the case in those days he worked hard and received little pay for his services. I have often heard him tell of the hardships of those experiences, which, hard as they may have been, were not the least pleasant of his recollections.

At about that time he was converted, and united with a Baptist church. Whether he was baptized in Rochester or in the church at Brockport, near his mother's home, I have been unable to learn. He came to our church by letter from the Second Baptist Church in Rochester, but the records of the Second church having been destroyed by fire, we are unable to state whether he was made a member of that church by letter or by confession of faith in baptism. From recollections of conversations with the General I have the conviction that he was baptized before leaving his mother's home, and when he was in his fifteenth year.

In 1837, when he was seventeen years of age, he came to Albany, and became a clerk in the foundry of Joel Rathbone, his uncle, where he learned the business in which he achieved success and fortune. He did not regard himself as a mere clerk, anxious only to put in his time and draw his pay; he realized from the very first that to succeed he must excel, and that the opportunity to get on and up in the world was worth far more to him than salary. He mastered the details and the principles of the business in three years, even learning the trade of a moulder that he might not be ignorant of the practical side of his chosen calling. At night, instead of seeking the society of friends or attending places of amusement, he retired to his attic chamber over the office and foundry where he read and studied long into the night, laying the foundation of that wide knowledge and real culture which



served him so well in high public and social stations, and which made him such a charming companion and friend to the very end of his long life.

Before very long he became superintendent of the business, having full charge for a long season while his uncle was absent in Europe. This was his first great opportunity to prove himself and demonstrate his capacity, for during his uncle's absence he so reorganized the business, reduced the cost of manufacture, and increased the volume and improved the quality of the output, that the profits of the year were doubled. In such ways he made his services so valuable that he could dictate his own terms, and before long he became the animating spirit and head of a business that came to be recognized as the first and largest enterprise of its kind in the world. Success was followed by fortune and he became a leader in the commercial life of his city.

But his interest and activity were not limited to commercial or business affairs. When he came to this city he promptly identified himself with this church, then under the pastoral charge of its first and greatest minister, the Rev. Bartholomew T. Welch, D.D. In the congregation he saw the first men of the state and the nation, including such names as Martin Van Buren, Wm. L. Marcy and John A. Dix. In the prayer-meetings of the church he sat with such men as Ira Harris, Wm. G. Boardman, Friend Humphrey, and his then young and always beloved friend Stephen O.

Shepard. It was a splendid Christian home for a young and capable man. He united with this church by letter on the first day of February, 1839, before he was twenty years of age. About the first of January, 1840, he seems to have had a marked religious experience, for at that time he drew up a solemn and stately document in which he formally dedicated himself to Almighty God, a dedication which was controlling in his life for more than sixty years. This document was found in his private safe after his death. I think he never referred to it in conversation with others; it was a solemn compact made with his God, and with Him alone. It reads like an old Puritan document, and is charged with the strong theology and high moral ideals which characterized the Christian teaching and life of that time. One cannot help asking, what were the struggles, and, possibly, the temptations which led to such an act by a young man? Nor can we who knew him well and intimately, fail to trace to that act of solemn self-devotement, his faithfulness to the church and its services.

His special interest was in the Sunday School of the church. For forty years he was our Superintendent, and for ten years more Superintendent Emeritus. The school was "as the apple of his eye:" our magnificent school room was made possible by his large gifts when this edifice was built; from his green-house plants were sent every Sunday to be placed about the fountain; and every Sunday he sent bou-

quets of flowers to be taken to scholars who were ill. During most of the fifty years he had a class in the Sunday School, for while Superintendent he yet felt that he must be a teacher. He did not limit his concern for his scholars to the hour of Sunday School. He kept track of his pupils, knew them in their homes, called on them and their parents when they were ill or in trouble, secured employment for them when they found it necessary to earn a living, was concerned in their spiritual welfare and never rested until every one of them had become a disciple of Jesus Christ, and, if they left the city, he corresponded with them, sometimes for years thereafter. I have read letters from scholars of long ago thanking him for his faithfulness and gladdening his dear old heart by acknowledging the gracious and lasting influence of his ministries. I know a score and more of people in this congregation this morning whose hearts witness to the truth of what I am saying, and who think of him as their friend and spiritual father.

He was always in his place at church. To him the Church Covenant was a solemn vow not lightly to be disregarded or broken. Morning and evening saw him in his place on the Sabbath, and when he could not be here he sent some word of apology and regret. He was devoted to the week-night prayer meeting, and he was one of a very few persons whose absence from that meeting would excite comment. From this meeting he suffered no social engagement to keep him away;

many times, to my personal knowledge, he pushed away from the table when guests were present, saying: "the hour for our church prayer-meeting has come, you must excuse me, I will return to your company when it is over." On one occasion he came to my house to ask me if I would justify him in staying away for reasons given.

He was a genuine supporter of Christian missions. Among letters to the General which I have been permitted to read are many from missionaries in foreign lands. He was the special friend of J. G. Oncken, "the apostle of Germany," building five chapels for Dr. Oncken's work in 1853, and for years thereafter contributing to the support of that important work. One letter from Dr. Oncken reveals the significant fact that Mr. Rathbone was the special friend and counsellor of that truly great man, to whom he came in times of depression or extremity. I also found letters and photographs from missionaries in India and Burmah, who were supported in large part by General Rathbone's gifts. He was also a firm friend of missions at home, Superintendent of the mission at Bath-on-the-Hudson, where he built the chapel now occupied by the Bath church, an active member of the Albany Missionary Union, and a genuine supporter of our work at Pageville (now the Memorial Church), at North Albany and at Kenwood.

General Rathbone was one of the chief promoters of our two institutions of learning at Rochester, the University of

Rochester and the Rochester Theological seminary, where his name is held in deserved honor. He helped scores of young men to secure an education. If I were to call the roll of those he thus assisted, it would include the names of many men prominent in the educational, religious and political life of our country. Last June when we were celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Rochester, General Rathbone was present as the guest of honor. The exercises were held in one of the large theatres of the city, and the General sat upon the stage. By my side in one of the boxes sat a man, somewhat advanced in life, who is still prominent in the educational work of the middle west. He leaned over to me and asked, "Is that General John Rathbone sitting there? is he still living?" I said "yes," whereupon with deep emotion, he said, "I must see him, I must see him." I did not then understand why this stranger was so deeply moved, but on reading General Rathbone's correspondence, I learned the secret of his emotion. Many years ago, when a student in the University of Rochester, that man found himself without funds with which to complete his education, when, quite without his solicitation or previous knowledge, there came to him a draft for an amount sufficient to pay all his term bills, and thus enabling him to graduate with his class. I mention this not because it was exceptional, but because it was characteristic of our honored friend.

General Rathbone was not only a devoted man as a Christian, and in matters distinctively religious, he was also a public-spirited citizen in the wider sense. Recall the public enterprises, the educational and charitable institutions with which he was actively identified:

A trustee of the Albany Orphan Asylum for fifty years and for thirty-five years its president; a trustee of the Albany Medical College for fifty years; for forty-six years a trustee of the Albany Cemetery Association, and for some years its president; for forty-three years a trustee of the Dudley Observatory and for nineteen years president of that board; for an equal length of time trustee of the Albany Academy and again its president,—the prosperity of this school for the past twenty years is traceable to his wise counsel and to his personal labors and contributions; for forty years he was a trustee of the University of Rochester, for many years vice-president of the Board of Trustees, and the life-long friend of its great president, Martin B. Anderson; for years also he was a trustee of the Rochester Theological Seminary, of which another of his close friends, Ezekiel G. Robinson, was president, afterward president of Brown University; he was a trustee of this church for forty years, and for twenty years president of the Board; he was also the generous friend and patron of the Albany High School, a frequent visitor at its public exercises, and taking a personal interest in many of its pupils. One of the last letters

he wrote, if not the very last, was an apology because he found himself too ill to attend a meeting of one of the High School societies.

The zeal and enthusiasm with which he devoted himself to these institutions and enterprises have no parallel. Every teacher and scholar, every superintendent and director felt that in General Rathbone he had a personal friend and champion. The world will never know the extent and magnitude of the services thus freely and joyously rendered. Some of these services, of which I have personal knowledge, and which for obvious reasons we may not mention and describe, were beautiful and delicate in the extreme, evincing an appreciation of persons and measures, of needs and opportunities that marked our General a very prince among gentlemen. The significant fact about it all is the evidence of his thoughtfulness. He initiated these movements, he led the way and did not wait for others to come to him. In one of the old subscription books for some charitable object in our city, I find in his own handwriting the well-known words of the Apostle, "Provoke one another to love and good works."

In this brief review of his life and services we must not forget his services to the State and Nation. When the Civil war began in 1861, he was a General of Militia. He promptly offered his services as a soldier in the field, but the Governor of the State insisted that he could better serve his country by assuming the important and arduous posi-

tion of Commandant of the Albany Depot of Volunteers. Many of the regiments of soldiers who went from this State into the service of the United States were organized and mustered into service under his personal supervision. On retiring from this responsible position, where he rendered conspicuous service, he was highly complimented by his superior officers in the military service and by the Governor of the State. But far more significant as illustrating the General's character, is a large package of letters, which I have read, from officers and men, addressed to him after they had gone to the front. He had won the affectionate confidence of every line officer and subaltern. They freely wrote to him, thanking him for his kindly offices or else invoking them, telling him their perplexities and troubles, acknowledging and sometimes returning loans of money, seeking his influence with governors, generals and congressmen, and commending parents, wives and children to his thoughtful concern and care. These are facts—beautiful and significant facts—which witness a service which finds no record in public and official reports.

In 1872, not long after the election of that year, General Rathbone received the following letter:

“PRIVATE.”

MY DEAR SIR:

3 WEST 21ST ST.,

26 Nov., 1872.

I write to ask you if you will accept the appointment of Adjutant-General. As you reside in Albany, and your country residence is so near that you can be promptly reached in case of emergency, I think the per-



formance of the duties need never subject you to much personal inconvenience: and it will be very agreeable to have you near me.

Very truly yours,

GENERAL JOHN F. RATHBONE.

JOHN A. DIX.

I can hardly conceive of an honor greater than this, coming from such a man as Governor Dix, and quite unsolicited and entirely apart from political or party considerations. And when to this letter we might add another from Governor Dix, written at the closing of his term as Governor, beginning "My dear John," and acknowledging in terms of personal endearment the value of services personal and public, the honor is still further enhanced.

In the fullest and truest sense General Rathbone was a servant of the public. I think he never held an elective office. It was as a public-spirited citizen, not as an office-seeker or partizan leader that he served his day and generation. We find him fearlessly prominent in reform movements: the Law and Order League, of which he was president; the Committee of Thirteen, which has rendered such conspicuous service in safe-guarding the interests of our city; the Vigilance League, of more recent date. People always looked to him for coöperation and often for leadership in matters of public interest and concern.

It was but natural, therefore, in 1897, that those citizens who sought to reform our municipal affairs should unite upon him as a candidate for Mayor. At that time he was at his

summer home in the State of Maine, where he received a memorial, numerously signed, asking him to stand for the office of Mayor. This document was followed by personal letters from many of our prominent citizens of all political opinions and parties, urging him to accept the nomination. Because of his advanced age he felt compelled to decline this honor. But that these men knew their man and appreciated his ruling traits of character is plain from the following paragraph, which I take from their memorial :

“The municipal affairs of this city need wisdom and courage in the Mayor's office, and we know of no man who combines these elements to a greater or more useful extent than you.”

The time at my disposal this morning forbids further detail. I have intentionally refrained from speaking of his home-life, of his devotion to his beloved and honored wife, with whom he lived in happiest union for nearly fifty-seven years, and of his tender and always considerate love for his children and grandchildren. Their most blessed and most enduring inheritance is the memory of his nobility of soul and of his loving and beautiful devotion.

It was such a man, such a private citizen, whose going on to the eternal world on that Wednesday evening in March was such a distinct sorrow and shock to all the citizens of Albany, young and old, rich and poor. It was fitting that our leading newspaper should begin its obituary notice with these words: “Yesterday afternoon at seven o'clock, General

John F. Rathbone, Albany's grand old man, peacefully yielded up his life." Yes, he was our "grand old man;" in length and dignity of service, and in the respects of usefulness and unselfish public spirit, he was our first citizen. Not an institution with which he was connected but felt itself orphaned by his death! The Mayor of the city convened his cabinet and adopted resolutions of respect and sympathy,—not for a public officer, but for a private citizen whose only claim on their notice was the strength and beauty of his character, the dignity and worth of his services to his fellow men. Officers and directors of business corporations, of charitable and educational and scientific institutions, of church and Bible school, added their expressions of appreciation, of love and of sorrow. School-boys and school-girls gathered together to talk of their sorrow and to express their love and sympathy and sense of loss in tender and appreciative phrase. His name was upon all lips, and a universal sentiment responded approvingly to the beautiful and satisfactory tribute paid to his memory and his character by the honored Bishop of Albany.

It now remains for us to ask: What was the secret of such a life? What were the determining elements of his character and facts of his career?

I mention first the influence of his mother.

From all that I can learn his father was a man of many noble traits of character, a refined and sensitive soul. But,

as we know, the father died when our General was but a lad. His mother was a woman of remarkable strength of character. She was a devout and earnest Christian; she knew what she believed and why she believed it, and she never hesitated to affirm her faith and her personal views of truth. She had a profound sense of motherly responsibility. She nurtured her children in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. She was like the General in many ways; like him she was small of stature, she had the same piercing black eyes, the same ability to master circumstances however adverse, the same moral courage, the same ambition to excel. She loved the church and gave to it her best service and thought. And she taught her children to fear God and keep his commandments. The General often spoke of his debt to his mother, and held her very name in reverence. The Bible she gave him when he left home, well worn by long and constant use, was cherished by her son to the end of his days. She corresponded with him about his religious life, and urged him to keep true to the faith of his boyhood. He knew that at evening and at morning and at noon she was praying for him. Her influence continued long after he had achieved success. To the very end of her life she held a constraining and commanding influence over him; and her memory was a blessing to him to the end of his own life. As Monica to Augustine so was Nancy Forsyth to him whose memory we honor to-day.

A second formative influence in the General's character was the early burden of responsibility he was compelled to assume.

From his fourteenth year he was the head of the family. Even before that time, before his father's death, he was his mother's counsellor and his father's chief reliance. He had no boyhood. He was always a man, doing a man's work and carrying a burden of responsibility for the whole family. He was the head of his house. A voluminous correspondence shows how his mother leaned upon him, how she sought his advice about the management of the farm, and about the education of his brothers and sisters. The wise prophet of Israel said "It is good for a young man that he bear the yoke in his youth." Hard as it was, it was certainly good for this young man. And certain it is, as we read history, that the strong ones of the earth have generally been those who through force of circumstances have been compelled to wear the yoke of responsibility in early life. And equally certain is it that a life of ease and of freedom from care and responsibility is generally fatal to any large success.

A third determining factor in the General's life was the reality of his early religious experience.

He was converted. He accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord when he was but a lad. He knew whom he believed. His coming into the church was not a merely formal act of confession and obedience, it was the result of convic-

tion,—conviction of sin, of his need of forgiveness, of absolute dependence on Divine grace, the answer of a good conscience towards God.

He was always testing himself by the standard of Christ, and that habit (shall we call it?) kept him humble, made him see his limitations and faults, was the occasion of those confessions he occasionally made in our meetings for social prayer, and the spring of his strenuous devotion to the duties of religion and the church.

But with this reality of his spiritual experience there was also a conception of the religious life as one of service. He found spiritual joy and moral security in the more active duties of a religious life. The late Phillips Brooks once said: "I do think that we break almost all our resolutions not to do wrong, while we keep a large proportion of our resolutions that we will do what is right." Very early in life, long before Bishop Brooks thought of preaching, General Rathbone got hold of this idea. He learned that there is no such shield against temptation as the doing of good, the serving of our fellow-men, the calling off of thought from self to some worthy duty or service. To him religion was not living in a glass case, protected from temptation and sin by close housing. To him discipleship meant more than religious ecstasy, a fine frenzy of emotion over thoughts of God's love. To be a disciple he must serve—and how he served! Behold him with James Covert, of blessed memory, going over to French's

Village, in rain or sunshine, cold or heat, to conduct that Sunday-school. How beautiful was their mutual love in old age, born of this common service of God when both were younger men! Here is an extract from a letter written many years ago by a man who was once a student in Albany:

“ One of the strongest impressions of *fidelity* I ever remember to have received, was, when a young man, in a strange city, as I sat on Sunday afternoons, among my young companions in the reading-room of the hotel where we boarded, and saw week after week, at about a certain hour, a gentleman with silvered hair, but firm step, walking rapidly down the avenue, turning neither to the right nor left. I was led to inquire who it was, and where he was going so regularly? I was informed that it was General Rathbone, and that he had a Sunday School across the river at Bath,—and there Sunday after Sunday with a fidelity I shall never forget, in fair weather or foul, through rain or snow, often when the walking was very bad, this faithful layman invariably walked the mile and a half or two miles to the little Sunday School he had organized, and which he served with unfaltering faithfulness at an hour when many others were taking their ease.”

Years afterward that same young man became a Christian, a member of the General's Sunday School, and finally a Christian minister, all through what we may call the lateral influence of the General's fidelity.

Yes, “fidelity” is the word which describes his Christian life. Wherever he was he sought opportunity to serve his fellow-men for Christ's sake. During these last few summers he spent the heated term at Islesford on the coast of Maine. Now that he has gone from us the fisher-folk of that remote region send testimonials of how he established a Sunday School and regular religious services among them.

That "Solemn dedication of myself to Almighty God," which was found in his safe, takes to itself a mighty significance as we read it in the light of his subsequent career. He was not a perfect man, but he was a genuine disciple of the Man of Nazareth. He confessed his own faults, and he freely forgave and then forgot the faults of others. He loved to serve his fellow-men. It was his habit, his joy,—meat and drink for his soul.

More than any other man whom I have ever personally known he illustrated and fulfilled this fine sentiment of Mr. Ruskin's:

"If ever in autumn a pensiveness comes over us as the leaves drift by in their fading, let us lift up our eyes to the hills and behold their mighty monuments. How beautiful in arch and aisle, the fringes of the hills, the avenues of the valleys! Yet they are but the monuments of the poor leaves that flit faintly past us to die. Let us not fail to learn their last sad lesson that, careless of monument by the grave, we may build it in the world,—monument by which man shall be taught to remember not where we died but where we lived."



## TRIBUTE BY THE BISHOP OF ALBANY.

The death of one whom we call an old man comes usually with no special sense of surprise. When a community is startled by such an event it means two things: First, that the oldness has not meant infirmity; and secondly, that the life has been so identified with the community as to have become a recognized part of its own life. The fact that the city was startled this morning, when the news came that Gen. Rathbone was dead, means that we had taken for granted that he would live on as part of the life of Albany, and that he had kept, in mind and body, the vigor and vitality of his manhood. But the end came like the sunset of a long summer day, the closing of a full and well-spent earthly life, calm and beautiful, with all the glory gathered into it, all of the energies and activities which had enriched it, fused and transfigured into peace. There are few good things in this city that have not felt the touch of General Rathbone's sympathy, the power of his energy, the value of his counsel, the help of his generosity. Consistently and steadfastly devoted to his own religious communion, the depth of his religious nature reached underneath it and extended outside of it, in its reality and its large comprehension. Quite apart

from his life-long interest in the military affairs of the State, and his able administration as Adjutant-General under Gov. Dix, he was a soldier by instinct and nature, fearless and full of courage in his every conviction, and resolute and firm to every duty. With his retirement from active business some years ago, came, not leisure or repose, but increased devotion to the institutions and the interests, religious, charitable and educational, which were wrapt up with his life and which will always cherish his name. And the man in him,—with a will not so much what men call iron as steel, toughened and tempered and polished in the fires of his zeal,—was alert, vigorous, fresh in every pulse and fiber to the very last, with the home dignity of a patriarch, with the human charm of his hospitality, his love of animals, his love of flowers, with eye undimmed even by the tears of the great sorrows which he bore with the bravest patience, and with his natural force, physical, mental and spiritual, unabated to the end. It is a life that can hardly be said to have gone out, but only to have passed on into the dawning of a brighter and eternal day.

WM. CROSWELL DOANE,  
*Bishop of Albany.*

*March 21, 1901.*

## ALBANY ARGUS.

March 21, 1901.

Yesterday afternoon at 7 o'clock General John F. Rathbone, Albany's grand old man, peacefully yielded up his life, surrounded by the members of his family. His death was comparatively painless and he was conscious nearly until the last. He had been ill with grippe only a little more than two weeks, with threatening symptoms from the first.

General Rathbone was born in this city, October 9, 1819. He received his early education at the Albany Academy and the Brockport Collegiate Institute. His father died in 1833, and very soon after he removed to Rochester, N. Y., where he began his career in business. Four years later, in 1837, he returned to Albany, with whose interests he has been identified ever since. It was then that he entered upon the line of business which he followed throughout his life. He became a clerk in the foundry of Joel Rathbone. It is characteristic of his great energy and business acumen that during the period of three years of service in this position, that he not only performed his regular duties, but also perfected himself in the practical details of the business. He had a "floor" prepared for his own use and learned the busi-

ness of a moulder by actual practice of the art. So with other details, until he was fully equipped with the special knowledge which later proved of great value in the business which he organized for himself. After a business connection of five years with the late S. H. Ransom, in 1845 he built a stove foundry which subsequently became the largest in the world. In later years he associated with himself Mr. Grange Sard and others in the firm known as Rathbone, Sard & Co. Some years ago General Rathbone left the most active supervision of this firm to his juniors, though he had by no means suffered the decrepitude usually incident to a man of his age.

Early in 1861 General Rathbone was appointed brigadier-general of the Ninth brigade of the National Guard, State of New York, and on the opening of the Albany depot for volunteers, he was appointed commandant. His services here in organizing and forwarding volunteers were active and incessant. On being relieved of the command he was highly complimented by his military superiors. January 1, 1873, he was appointed adjutant-general by Governor Dix, a position in which he displayed his well known energy, good judgment, and public spirit.

General Rathbone was a man of profound and practical religious convictions. He became a member of the Baptist church at the early age of fifteen years, and his interest in the church was unabated throughout his long life. He was for

fifty years Superintendent of the Emmanuel Baptist Sunday School, and was president of the Board of Trustees of the church. Among the Christian virtues which he exercised in a large degree was that of charity. His most conspicuous service in this way was in relation to the Albany Orphan Asylum, of which he was one of the founders, a trustee, and, for many years, president. The chronicles of the times testify to his activity in securing support for the institution in its earlier years. Almost every week, and at times daily, he visited the institution to cheer, advise and direct in relation to its work, which, as all his friends well know, lay very close to his heart. This activity and ever fresh interest lasted to the end.

At the time of his death, General Rathbone was president of the Board of Trustees of the Dudley Observatory, and was senior in service among its members. He was one of the largest contributors in the foundation of the observatory. This practical interest in the institution he evinced throughout his life. It was largely due to his energy, and to his ability in enlisting the sympathy and support of the public, that the removal of the observatory to its new site was brought about eight years ago. To within four weeks of his death he frequently visited the observatory, carrying encouragement, counsel and sympathy.

One pleasant phase of General Rathbone's character was the kindly interest and comradely spirit which he had for

young people, and this was developed in later life by his connection with the Albany High School, and as trustee for the Boys' Academy. Among the sincerest mourners for him will be the boys and girls who listened to the gentle philosophy of his chapel addresses during his frequent visits to the High School, and who for successive years elected him an honorary member of the senior class, invited him regularly to the football games, and went to him with their problems and perplexities, sure of his keen appreciation of the school spirit and the young American standpoint.

His own experience in military affairs qualified him to enter into the spirit of the boys who composed the battalion of the Boys' Academy. At the competitive drills, the guidon drills and other exercises, his welcome presence was always felt almost as a benediction, by the aspiring young soldiers. His labors in behalf of the Academy were incessant; and on more than one occasion, in his quiet but aggressive way, he succeeded in extricating the institution from the pressure of its needs.

General Rathbone was, until recently, president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Albany. He was a park commissioner, a trustee of the Albany Rural Cemetery, a trustee of Rochester University. In fact, he filled a variety of positions of honor and trust during his long life, the mere mention of which cannot be undertaken here. Among his large benefactions should be mentioned his gift, many years

ago, to the Rochester University, of which the memory is preserved in the Rathbone Library of that institution.

Such, in very brief outline, is the history of a life of unusual fullness and of rare benefit to the public at large. In full activity, without material interruption at any time, it extended over the extraordinary period of more than sixty-six years. It is full of suggestion to young men of the present day. In his youth General Rathbone is described as a boy and man of superabundant energy. The late Thomas W. Olcott, no mean judge of men, once remarked that General Rathbone could transact more business in a given time than any man he ever knew. During all this time in which General Rathbone was laboring so earnestly and efficiently for numerous public institutions, he was carrying on a press of business which in itself would have been more than enough to exhaust the energies of an ordinary man.

The most charming feature in the character of the man was the innate kindliness and sympathy which he manifested toward all with whom he was associated, and very especially with the young. Even in the later years of his life it was impossible to think of him as an old man nearing the end of his allotted span. His enthusiasm for all that is good and of public benefit remained fresh and youthful to the last. He was a man of marked executive ability, positive and even aggressive in his convictions, but withal broad-minded and tolerant. His keen intelligence, his sparkling eye, erect car-

riage and animated manner remained with him to the last. Although he had been noted through all his life for his unselfishness and the multitude of his good deeds—his left hand knowing not what his right hand did—he was heard to remark in the closing month of last year, as if his previous life had not satisfied him in this respect, that he had resolved to devote the remainder of his life to doing good.

His death removes a noble figure from the life of this city, which will be sadly missed and sincerely mourned. He is survived by his wife and four daughters. The celebration of the golden wedding of General and Mrs. Rathbone, which occurred a few years ago, formed a delightful episode in Albany society. At his bedside when he passed away were General and Mrs. Oliver, Colonel and Mrs. Bowditch, Mrs. John H. Rathbone, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Shaw of Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Murray of New York, the Misses Oliver and Rev. Dr. Buttrick of the Emmanuel Baptist Church.



## ALBANY EVENING JOURNAL.

March 21, 1901.

One of Albany's most distinguished and philanthropic citizens passed away at seven o'clock last evening in the death of General John F. Rathbone, which occurred at his home, 119 Washington avenue. The General never recovered from an attack of the grip which confined him to his home about two weeks ago. Death came peacefully and found him surrounded by the members of his family and his pastor, who watched at his bedside all day yesterday, expecting each passing minute to be the last.

General Rathbone's career was a remarkable one. He was one of Albany's foremost citizens, holding a conspicuous position in its commercial, religious and philanthropic life. He was prominently identified with the citizen soldiery of the State, and was well known throughout the country. He was born in Albany on October 9, 1819, and therefore was in the eighty-second year of his age when he died. His early education was received at the Albany Academy, an institution of which he was for many years a trustee and which occupied a large place in his affections. After leaving the Academy he attended the Brockport Collegiate Institute. In 1833 his father died, and shortly thereafter he removed to

Rochester, where he engaged in business for four years. In 1837 he returned to Albany, became a clerk in the foundry of Joel Rathbone, and learned there the business which he followed throughout his life. In addition to performing his regular duties as clerk, he perfected himself with a knowledge of the practical end of the business. He prepared a "floor" for his own use and learned the moulder's trade by actual experience. He also became proficient in the other details of the business. For five years he was connected with the late S. H. Ransom. In 1845 General Rathbone built a stove foundry which subsequently became the largest in the world. Later he associated himself with Grange Sard, and the firm of Rathbone, Sard & Co. was organized. During the past several years General Rathbone left the entire management of the business to others in the firm.

General Rathbone was appointed Brigadier-General of the Ninth Brigade of the National Guard, State of New York, early in 1861. When the Albany Depot for Volunteers was opened he was appointed its Commandant and performed valuable services in organizing and forwarding volunteers. He was complimented highly by his military superiors when he was relieved of the command. On January 1, 1873, Governor Dix appointed him Adjutant-General of the State, which position he filled with general satisfaction.

General Rathbone's association with religious and philanthropic institutions forms one of the most beautiful chapters

of his life. At the early age of fifteen, he joined the Baptist denomination. His interest in that church was lively and active throughout his life. He was a trustee of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, and for fifty years was Superintendent of the Sunday School. When he completed the fiftieth year of superintendency a few years ago he was elected superintendent emeritus, which position he held at the time of his death. By the members of the Emmanuel Church and Sunday School he will ever be held in grateful memory. No Christmas, Easter or anniversary service of any description was complete without a wealth of beautiful and fragrant flowers from the General's conservatory. No needy ones ever had to ask him twice for aid. For many years he taught a Young Women's Bible Class. His acts of Christian charity are too numerous to mention in a newspaper account of his life, but they were so many that they will not soon be forgotten. Baptist institutions generally benefited by his offerings. Many years ago he gave largely to Rochester University, a Baptist institution, to found the Rathbone Library. In the Albany Orphan Asylum he was interested conspicuously. He was one of the founders, a trustee, and for many years president of the institution. The General's visits to the institution always brought joy to the children. He went there as often as his many duties would permit. He enjoyed advising and directing in relation to its work.

To the boys in the Albany Academy and the boys and girls in the Albany High School, General Rathbone was a staunch friend and comrade. His death comes as a severe loss to both institutions. His kindly advice was a pleasure and guide to the pupils. Every year he was elected an honorary member of the senior class of the High School. He enjoyed the baseball and football games and frequently advised the boys when they went to him with their troubles.

In the Albany Academy Cadet Battalion he was peculiarly interested. No competitive drill, guidon drill or commencement was complete without him. His addresses to the graduates from both preparatory and academic departments were replete with good advice for the young. So great was his interest in the institution that he frequently went down into his own pocket to meet pressing needs.

He was one of the largest contributors to the Dudley Observatory, and at the time of his death was president of the board of trustees and senior in service among its members. He held many other positions of honor and trust. Until recently he was president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Albany. He was a park commissioner, a trustee of the Albany Rural Cemetery and a trustee of Rochester University.

He was an active Republican all his life. In 1897 he was recommended for mayor by the Republicans and Vigilance League committee of the city, but declined the honor.

General Rathbone is survived by his wife and four children. At his bedside when he died were General and Mrs. Oliver, Colonel and Mrs. Bowditch, Mrs. John H. Rathbone, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw of Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Murray of New York, the Misses Oliver and the Rev. Dr. Buttrick, pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church.

#### MAYOR'S CABINET ACTS.

At a meeting of the Mayor's cabinet held at noon to-day, at which all heads of departments were present, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

In the death of General John F. Rathbone the city of Albany loses one of its most distinguished, progressive and energetic citizens. For over half a century he had been identified with every movement that was calculated to advance the city's interests. He was born here in 1819, and except for a brief absence in his early manhood, he had always been a resident of Albany. For over sixty years he was identified with leading institutions of the city. In civil and military life he made a distinguished appearance. For his services as commander of the Ninth Brigade during the Civil war he received high commendation from his superior officers. As Adjutant-General of the State under General Dix he performed signal service.

In his death the city loses one of its representative citizens, and therefore it is

*Resolved*, That as a token of the regard in which John F. Rathbone was held by his fellow citizens the heads of the city department here assembled do put upon record their high appreciation of his manifold civic virtues and express their deep sorrow that a life so beneficent to his fellow creatures has come to an end.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of the esteem in which General Rathbone was held, the Mayor and the heads of the various city departments attend in a body the funeral of the lamented dead.

And it is further

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

## A GREAT MAN GONE.

A Tribute.

Seldom is a community called upon to part with so conspicuous a figure in so many departments of social and philanthropic activity as this community in the death of General Rathbone. From the first, as a resident of Albany, the energy and earnestness of his life, his loyalty to noble purpose, and the genuineness of his character made its impress upon the life of this city, destined to prove his home, and in whose growth and development along all lines he took so lively an interest. The many institutions into whose life he entered so largely, and by wise counsel proved instrumental in the shaping of judicious policies, stand to-day like so many monuments of his greatness and skill. It is hard to realize that one whose life and influence were so potent and essential, affecting as they did the educational and religious activities of our city, should be at an end, and yet death stops not the effect and results of an idealistic and noble life. What an inspiration to young men as their devotion and zeal seek for expression in church and Sunday School as did his! What a mark he left for the historian to record in the annals of Emmanuel Church! Fearless of expression and yet ever ready to manifest a due consideration for the rights and

opinions of others, the many boards upon which he served, to-day bear willing testimony to his ability and worth. While we mourn his loss we rejoice in the fact that his completed and well-rounded life has entered that higher state where its influence shall have no end.

GOBBO, JR.

ALBANY, N. Y., *March* 21, 1901.

## EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, held on the 21st day of March, 1901, the following resolution and memorial was unanimously adopted:

The trustees of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, having learned of the death of General John F. Rathbone, who for twenty years has held the office of president of the board, desire to give as fitting an expression as the poverty of words can do, of their sorrow, bereavement, and keen sense of loss, in the death of their esteemed, loving associate and president. His unerring judgment, his marvelous executive ability, his thoughtful and tender consideration, and above all his love for the church, whose interest was so largely in the keeping of its board of trustees, made him both president and counsellor and the determinative power in the board. By adopting his suggestions, by referring to his judgment in all the years of the past, there was given to the board that wise discernment, culminating in the judicious actions, which have been so productive of good, and so highly appreciated by the church.

Our dear president and honored associate has passed through the wide open gates of the Orient, to "The land that is brighter than day," to unbroken rest, joys unspeakable and life eternal. Ours the loss, his the unmeasurable gain; ours the sorrow, his the heavenly rapture. To his sorely bereaved wife, fatherless children and grandchildren, whom he so tenderly loved, we tender our heartfelt sympathy; and order that this expression of our love, our sense of bereavement and sorrow, be entered in full upon the minutes, published in the Albany papers, and transmitted to the bereaved family.

GRANGE SARD,  
EZRA G. BENEDICT,  
CHARLES R. KNOWLES,  
SAMUEL S. HATT,

ALBERT J. WING,  
JOHN L. STURTEVANT,  
MARSHALL W. TEBBUTT,  
GEORGE W. STEDMAN,  
*Trustees.*



## EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Resolutions adopted by the Sunday School of the Emmanuel Baptist Church on the death of General John F. Rathbone:

General Rathbone, the oldest friend of this Bible School, has entered into life eternal. We who remain mourn his absence but rejoice in his presence before his Creator and Saviour. Nevermore shall we behold the familiar presence of him who, faithful to the very end of his life, has borne relations to this school which no other man has ever sustained or can hope to achieve. This room is hallowed with memories of him which time cannot efface—memories which, to all who have known him, will be an inheritance of great value—great to those to whom he gave instructions; to those who knew him as a friend and companion; great to those who merely came in contact with so noble a character; great to those who felt his personality, and who in this school or city has not? Great to all who have felt the clasp of his hand or heard the tone of his voice, or who have seen his loving disposition manifested in words and deeds. Among all his numerous and varied interests none occupied his thoughts and attention more closely, none partook more of his love and devotion than Emmanuel Church and Bible School, and we desire to perpetuate this privilege which we have been permitted to enjoy. Fortunate have been those who in past years have known his personality, have felt the power of his character, and fortunate also are those who have been privileged to know him towards the close of his generous life. The influence which he has exerted over scores of other lives will never be known to any man or woman, nor how many persons he has touched by his fearless, kindly Christianity, nor how many he has stirred to nobler and truer life by his deep religious convictions and love for his Master and Saviour. Who is able to estimate into how many homes have gone

his messages of hope, into how many hearts have gone words of comfort or into how many lives have entered his deeds of charity, love and friendship? Fortunate, indeed, is this school, which before all, and more than all others, he loved and cherished with his whole heart, and which in turn loved him.

EDGAR D. VARNEY, *Sup't.*

CHARLES S. STEDMAN, *Ass't Sup't.*

HARRY J. DE LONG, *Sec'y.*

H. P. BISHOP, *Treas.*

March 24, 1901.

## UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Rochester, held at Rochester, N. Y., on Saturday, March 23, 1901, the following was unanimously adopted:

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Rochester has learned with profound sorrow of the death at Albany on the 20th instant of General John F. Rathbone, First Vice-President of the Board. General Rathbone's membership in the Board dates from 1857, and he has been First Vice-President since 1886. His interest in the welfare of the University has been constant, and has found expression alike in wise counsel and in liberal gifts. The Rathbone Library Fund endowed by his gift of \$25,000, and other liberal gifts, will keep his name in grateful remembrance in the life of the University. His superb presence dignified by the crown of his eighty years typifies for us all the largeness of his Christian manhood and the strength of his integrity. We enter on our records this minute of our affectionate regard and of our sense of great loss, and extend to the family of our noble colleague respectful and earnest sympathy.

CHARLES M. WILLIAMS, *Secretary*.

## DUDLEY OBSERVATORY.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Dudley Observatory, at noon to-day, the following resolutions in memory of the late General Rathbone were passed :

*Resolved*, That it is with great sorrow that we have heard of the death of General John F. Rathbone, the President of this Board. For forty-three years he had been one of its members, and he had held the office of president for some nineteen years. With untiring assiduity he had filled these offices ; ever present at our meetings, unless absolutely prevented, and ready at all times to do whatever was needed to promote the interests of the Observatory. He was a frequent visitor at the buildings, and was full of interest in all that was done there. In the founding of the institution he aided liberally, and he had been ever mindful of its welfare. Very recently he was especially active in plans for its progress. During the many years of his connection with the Observatory his desire for its prosperity never abated among the numerous other cares of his active life ; and not a month has passed since he was present with us in his usual energy. By his personal efforts and assistance he had advanced the prosperity of the Observatory, and his death has removed one of its earnest supporters.

We, his associates, remembering his unfailing courtesy and his cheerful spirit, deeply mourn the friend who has been taken from us. We shall greatly miss his genial presence in our Board, and we would express to his near relatives and connections our deep sympathy in their sorrow. We rejoice that they and we can look back on his long life as one full of good works, upright conduct and Christian faith.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased.

WILLIAM L. LEARNED, *Vice-President*.

LEWIS BOSS, *Secretary*.

## ALBANY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Cemetery Association, held March 21, 1901, the following resolutions in memory of the late General John F. Rathbone were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the death of General John F. Rathbone has brought deep sorrow to our citizens and to us especially who have been associated with him in this Board. It is forty-six years ago that he was elected, and nearly four years since he became our President. During all his membership he had shown that active and energetic interest in the welfare of the association which were his marked characteristics in every worthy cause which was intrusted to him. Regular in his attendance, fertile in his suggestions, wise in his counsels, considerate of the opinions of others, kindly in all his actions and dignified in his manner, he was most useful as a member of this Board; and his death makes a sad vacancy. More than all, we have individually lost a friend.

We are well aware that ours is not the only board which mourns this loss. His activity was felt in many bodies, religious, charitable or scientific; and whenever, among them all, any duty was put upon him, he discharged it promptly, consistently and faithfully. And so he filled a long life with labors for the good of the world. He rests from his labors, but

The actions of the just  
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust.

*Resolved*, That the family of our deceased friend have our sympathy in the great affliction which has come upon them.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the city papers, and that a copy be sent to the family.

WILLIAM L. LEARNED, *Vice-President*.

GEORGE G. DAVIDSON, *Secretary*.

## ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Medical College, held on Friday, March 22, 1901, on motion of the Hon. Simon W. Rosendale, the following entry was directed to be made in full upon the minutes :

The death of our senior trustee, John F. Rathbone, is a cause of profound sorrow to each of us. Our records show that since December 28, 1850, he had been a trustee. Those of us who constitute the present membership of the Board recall his regularity in attendance, his great interest in the College and prompt discharge of every duty imposed upon him. His death is the severance of a link which connected us with the active men of this community of half a century ago ; his memory will be cherished by us as a public spirited and worthy citizen, who, during his long and useful career contributed much for the best of this city and its educational institutions.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing minute, properly certified, be forwarded to the family of our lamented associate, and be published in the city newspapers.

WILLIAM L. LEARNED, *President*.

CHARLES F. VAN BENTHUYSEN, *Secretary*.

## MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF ALBANY.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Albany, N. Y., held March 22, 1901, the following minute was adopted :

The directors of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Albany have convened to take appropriate action upon the death of General John F. Rathbone, which sad event took place March 20th.

General Rathbone had been a director and trustee of this company since 1854, for the last six years its President, and during this long period was most active and influential in its care and management.

It was characteristic of him to devote his personal energies to every enterprise which enlisted his interest, his friendship or his allegiance, and to contribute the very best of his judgment and experience to its welfare.

General Rathbone was unselfish and patriotic—willing even to lead an unpopular contest, if convinced that such contest was required in the interest of good government or better citizenship.

In this way, and during his long and useful life, he often became a leader in the public service, respected and honored in the city of his birth, which he loved and served so loyally.

This company loses a most valued officer and servant, and this community one of her best citizens.

The Secretary is directed to enter the above minute upon the records of the company, and to send a copy to the family of our late fellow director.

DAVID A. THOMPSON,  
ERASTUS D. PALMER,  
CHARLES H. GAUS,

*Committee.*

H. S. FOSTER, *Secretary.*

## ALBANY ORPHAN ASYLUM.

In the death of General John F. Rathbone, President of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Orphan Asylum, this institution has lost one of its most time-honored friends and most conspicuous benefactors. His colleagues in the Board, therefore, desire to put on record their high appreciation and grateful recollection of his long and useful services, his constant zeal in the work of benevolence, and his indefatigable exertions to promote every effort for the relief of the many orphans and destitute children placed under the care of this corporation. He became a manager of the asylum as early as 1850, and in 1866 was chosen its president, which office he filled continuously and with marked ability and fidelity till his decease. For more than forty years he was active in its management, and everyone connected with the institution feels that in his death it has suffered an irreparable loss. His deep interest in all matters pertaining to the asylum and its inmates was manifested in ways without number. Whenever his health would permit he visited the different departments once a week or oftener, always going to the school rooms and among the children, talking cheerfully with them, and advising and encouraging those in charge. By offering



liberal prizes for scholarship and good deportment, and by all other possible means he endeavored to incite rivalry in well-doing. His interest in the spiritual welfare of the children was shown by his regular habit of visiting the Sunday School twice a month or oftener, always taking part in the exercises. If any measure were suggested which might increase the comfort, guard the health, or in any way promote the welfare of the children, he was always interested—always zealous to carry it into effect. In short, there was nothing in which he did not strive to benefit the asylum, and it is impossible to tell in these brief minutes all that he did. “For his bounty, there was no winter in it; an autumn it was, that grew the more by reaping.”

The whole city of Albany feels his death as a public bereavement. Here he was born, in 1819, and here nearly all his life of eighty-one years and more was spent. He was prominent in many spheres of life—in the church of which from early manhood he was a member; in the Sunday School of which for fifty years he was superintendent; in education, as senior trustee and presiding officer of the Albany Academy; in science, as president of the Dudley Observatory; in city affairs, as a park commissioner; in business, as founder of one of the largest stove factories in the world, and as president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company; in military affairs, as Brigadier-General of the Ninth Brigade, and commandant of the Albany depot for volunteers in defense of

the Union during the civil war, and afterwards as Adjutant-General of the National Guard of the State of New York. In every sphere in which he was engaged he was most efficient. To enumerate all the positions of honor and trust which he filled would make a long list. He liberally endowed the Rathbone Library in the Rochester University, and made many other large gifts to religious, educational and benevolent purposes. His death has caused general sorrow, and has elicited many testimonials of the grateful esteem and the high regard in which he was held by his fellow citizens of all parties and creeds. But we, as his co-trustees in the Albany Orphan Asylum, over which he so long presided, take most pleasure in commemorating his active beneficence in behalf of destitute orphans.

To the good man, death is not the last sleep, but the final awakening; he dies that he may die no more; and we rejoice in the belief that our dear and honored friend has departed this life in the sure and certain hope of a blessed immortality.

A. V. DE WITT, *Sec'y.*

*March 23, 1901.*

## ALBANY ACADEMY.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Academy, held March 25, 1901, it was

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Albany Academy would express their great sorrow at the death of their late President, General John F. Rathbone.

He had been, since May, 1856, a member of the Board, and since June, 1896, had been its presiding officer. His deep interest in the welfare of the Academy was shown in his constant and prompt attendance at all its meetings.

At a time not long past, when the affairs of the Academy were in an unfavorable condition, his energy and decided action gave a new impetus, from which the Academy has ever since advanced; and it should not be forgotten how much was due to him at that time.

Since then his zeal for its welfare has been unabated. To him is principally due the establishment of the military drill, which has given so much life and spirit to the scholars, and in their thorough discipline and soldierly bearing he took a justifiable pride.

His gentlemanly character, his purity of life, his active benevolence, his warm interest in all good works, made him a model which the scholars of the Academy could not fail to imitate even unconsciously. We shall miss him greatly, as will all our fellow-citizens.

And the memory of his worthy life will long remain cherished in our hearts.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be printed in the papers of the city, and that a copy be sent to the family of our deceased friend.

WILLIAM L. LEARNED,  
WILFORD L. ROBBINS,  
FREDERICK TOWNSEND,

*Committee.*

## ALBANY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

TO THE FAMILY OF GENERAL RATHBONE:

Words seem but a vacant expression when the members of the Albany Academy Alumni Association seek to express the full sense of their loss when the life of General John F. Rathbone shifts from the sight of realism into the realm of memory. It was in his activity at the Academy that those who love that institution for what it stands for them — the place wherein their impressionable days were spent and where character as well as mind was formed — that the Alumni had real reason to rejoice. But now they treasure the hope that the ideal implanted by him in them may continue to bear its good results, while they bow to the loss future Academy students will never understand.

To many of us he became a familiar and close friend, one who took deep concern in our progress then, and spoke frequent words of cheer after we had grown beyond the age in which he could, although he did, call us "My boys." There was a feeling of helpfulness in those words as he spoke them, adding his cordial grasp to make certain that we knew he meant it, and who can say how many of us have not had our life's thoughts and motives moulded by his admonitions to "Fear not to do right; do it at all hazards."

He taught us the lessons of "Brotherly Love," "Thoroughness," "Integrity," and with all the forcefulness of his nature, of "Perseverance."

Class after class, for more than a quarter of a century, while receiving instruction of the mind through the curriculum, depended largely on his weekly "talks" for that spurring of the manhood within us, that is found so essential after schooldays. For this interest, and what it wrought in us, we feel deeply grateful, and yet it is only through the meagreness of mere words he cannot hear that we are able to give the recompense he never sought.

All members of the Alumni have been proud of his close association with us, and while a great many others have reason truthfully to say, "Large was his bounty," we, who knew him well, repeat that and add "and his soul sincere." He sought through life to do much and whatever he accomplished was well done, as by a faithful steward of many talents. His was a long and busy life, and now he has ceased from his labors

"Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to quiet dreams."

Our monitor has left us, but his influence endures, and we say:

"So may he rest: his faults lie gently on him."

For the Albany Academy Association,

GEORGE H. STEVENS, *President*.

FOSTER PRUYN, *Secretary*.

CUYLER REYNOLDS, *Historian*.

ALBANY, N. Y., *March 22, 1901.*

## CLASS OF 1901.

### ALBANY ACADEMY.

WHEREAS, it has pleased God in His Almighty Providence to remove from this life, the President of the Board of Trustees of this institution, whose deep interest in us and in the school was shown by his frequent visits and his presence at all functions, be it hereby

*Resolved*, That we, the Class of 1901 of the Albany Academy, having lost by the death of John Finley Rathbone, one who, with his kind and friendly advice would have wisely guided us in our school and after life, take this opportunity of expressing our sincere and heartfelt sorrow and appreciation and of extending our sympathy to the bereaved family. Be it further

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be spread over the minutes of the Class, published in the Cue, and that a copy of them be sent to the family of the deceased.

ROBERT LEE HALE, *Chairman*,

JOHN JAY WHITE, JR.,

STANLEIGH P. FRIEDMAN,

*Committee.*

## BECK LITERARY SOCIETY.

### ALBANY ACADEMY.

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom and justice has removed from this life, one to whom the affairs of the Academy have always been most dear, one who has shown active interest in its management as a member and President of the Board of Trustees. Be it therefore

*Resolved*, That in the death of General John F. Rathbone, the members of the Beck Literary Society of the Albany Academy have sustained an irretrievable loss and take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation and respect of the deceased and their sympathy for the bereaved family. Be it further

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be spread over the minutes of the Society, published in the Cue, and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

STANLEIGH P. FRIEDMAN, *Chairman*,

JOHN JAY WHITE, JR.,

FRANKLIN B. FULD,

*Committee.*

## GATES LITERARY SOCIETY.

ALBANY ACADEMY.

At a meeting of the Gates Literary Society, held Friday, March 22, 1901, the following resolutions in memory of the late General John F. Rathbone were unanimously adopted :

*Resolved,* That it is with sincere sorrow that we have learned of the death of General John F. Rathbone distinguished as one of the earliest graduates of the Academy, organizer of its Battalion, also veteran member and illustrious President of the Board of Trustees of the Academy. His eminent career, prominent personality and characteristic individuality in our educational welfare, commands profound respect and enduring admiration. Passing away in the fullness of years and honors, we shall ever reverence his cheerful advice and happy disposition.

His words of wisdom, urbane and courteous manner are indelibly impressed on all.

*Resolved,* That we deeply deplore the demise of this noble man and public benefactor.

His deeds of charity, religion and superlative qualities of manhood are enduring examples for emulation.

*Resolved,* That as a token of our respect and regard we tender our heartfelt sympathy and sorrow to the bereaved, that these resolutions be placed on record, published in the Cue, and a copy thereof transmitted to the family of the deceased.

EDWARD A. MARX,  
CHARLES E. QUINN,  
GILBERT V. SCHENCK,  
S. C. WOOSTER, JR.



## ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL.

The following memorial was unanimously adopted by the teachers and pupils of the Albany High School at a meeting held in the school chapel Friday, March 22, 1901 :

With great sorrow have the teachers and pupils of the Albany High school learned of the death of General John F. Rathbone.

By his generosity, his untiring interest in our welfare, his frequent visits to our chapel exercises, and his words of encouragement and good cheer, he had endeared himself to every teacher and pupil. His presence was always a benediction, and his words were an inspiration to brave and generous lives. He was beloved by every member of the school, and his death brings sorrow to every heart.

We realize that in the death of General Rathbone our city has lost one of its noblest and most honored citizens, and our school has lost a friend, than whom no one was more beloved and respected. We shall miss his genial presence and inspiring words, but the memory of his exalted character and noble life will remain as a perpetual influence, urging us to loftier ideals and nobler living. .

To the members of General Rathbone's family we extend our heartfelt sympathy in their great bereavement.

OSCAR D. ROBINSON,

*Principal.*

### F. AND A. M.—MASTERS' LODGE, No. 5.

By the death of General John F. Rathbone, Masters' Lodge, No. 5, F. & A. M., has lost its oldest member, save one, his name having been on its rolls for nearly fifty years. Many, especially the older members of the lodge who well remember when, in the prime of life, Brother Rathbone was an active factor in the lodge, feel great regret and much sorrow at the loss of what seems to be a connecting link of the present with the past in the history of the lodge. His continued interest in the welfare of the lodge was evident by his frequent inquiry as to its condition and affairs. Many members have requested that their sympathy with his bereaved family be in this manner expressed.

By order of

FREDERICK W. WHITE,  
*Acting Master.*

T. W. LARWOOD, *Secretary.*

## WILLIAM A. JACKSON POST, No. 644.

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, G. A. R.

At a regular encampment of William A. Jackson Post, No. 644, Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic, held at the Post Headquarters, Tuesday evening, March 26, 1901, on motion, a committee of three, consisting of comrades Spierre, Bennett and Davey, was appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of our esteemed associate member, General John F. Rathbone. In obedience to such motion the committee submitted the following:

WHEREAS, An all wise Providence has removed from earth our beloved associate comrade, General John F. Rathbone, whose interests in the welfare of Wm. A. Jackson, Post No. 644, Grand Army of the Republic, were so evident and whose delight to be present at the Post meeting was so manifest and

WHEREAS, The contemplation of his death is a source of profound sorrow to each individual comrade of the Post, by whom he was held in high esteem, and who had listened with feelings of admiration to the words of encouragement and the satisfaction he often expressed in being enrolled as an associate member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and to his unswerving integrity in his daily intercourse with his fellow men: therefore be it

*Resolved*, That in the death of General John F. Rathbone, the City of Albany has lost a patriotic public spirited citizen; the business community, one of its brightest minds; the cause of Christianity, an active determined worker for its advancement; the objects of charity, a generous contributor; the Grand Army of the Republic, an honored and devoted friend; and the

Union veteran soldier and his interests, an able, willing defender; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a page in the records of Wm. A. Jackson Post, No. 644, Department of New York, Grand Army of the Republic, be set apart to commemorate the death of our esteem comrade, General John F. Rathbone, and a copy of these resolutions, attested by the commander and adjutant of the Post be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

A. H. SPIERRE,  
W. W. BENNETT,  
GEO. W. DAVEY,  
*Committee.*

CORNELIUS COUTANT, *Commander.*  
WILLIAM F. MULLIN, *Adjutant.*

## ISLESFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

CRANBERRY ISLAND, MAINE.

Service was held in the Islesford Congregational Church, as a testimonial to the memory of John F. Rathbone, who died at his home in Albany, New York, March 20. General Rathbone used both money and influence in the interest of the church, and in many other ways showed a kindly and sympathetic interest for the island and its people. He had, with his family, spent several seasons here and at Northeast Harbor. The memorial service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. Charles N. Davie, and was as follows: Music; Psalm 91, read responsively; music; Psalm 103 and 1 Corinthians 13, by the pastor; music; prayer; music. Remarks by the pastor expressing the gratitude, sincere respect and appreciation of General Rathbone's help here in so many ways. He reorganized the Sunday School some ten years ago and gave it encouragement. Mr. Davie, in summing up the life of this good man, emphasised these points: Industry, Enthusiasm, Faith, Sympathy, Seeking to Help Others. The service closed by the reading of W. C. Bryant's poem, "The Aged Man," and the singing of General Rathbone's favorite hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers."





